

T-963
Rosaline S. Benson House
Oxford
Private

c. 1878

Historically identified as the Rosaline S. Benson house, this two-story, center hall/single-pile plan frame dwelling dates around 1878, shortly after Rosaline's purchase of this North Morris Street lot. The property remained in Benson family hands until 1918, when Rosaline S. Benson's children sold the house and lot to Joseph C. and Ida M. Robertson. The Robertsons retained title until the mid 1930s.

Rosaline Benson resided here with her husband, James H. Benson, and their three children, Morris, Helen, and Manie as well as a black servant, Elizabeth Banks and a boarder, Thomas B. Stewart. The reason that the property was purchased and owned by Rosaline instead of James was probably due to James' career on board ship and the complications that might arise if he were lost at sea. He is listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as a "sailor."

The Benson residence followed a plain, but nevertheless substantial form for the last quarter of the nineteenth century with its regular three-bay front and center hall/single-pile plan. The interior is fitted with woodwork that is common for the post Civil War era and combines machine or factory-made woodwork within a traditionally framed house.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Rosaline S. Benson House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-963

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. T-963

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rosaline S. Benson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 311 North Morris Street ___ not for publication

city, town Oxford ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name C. Clayton and Ann M. Hurt, Jr.

street & number P. O. Box 248 telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 685
liber 693

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 858

city, town Easton state MD 21601

7. Description

Survey No. T-963

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Rosaline S. Benson house, also known as the Robertson house, is located at 311 North Morris Street on the northern edge of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1878, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported on a low brick foundation which is partially excavated. The exterior is clad with German siding and the medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a shorter two-story rear wing which has been enlarged with a modern addition during the past few months.

The east (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking four-over-four sash windows. The heavily molded four-panel front door is framed by a three-pane transom and two-pane sidelights. Long louvered shutters flank the entrance. The adjacent windows are flanked by louvered shutters as well. Lighting the second floor are three evenly spaced window openings. Centered above the front door is a paired set of two-over-two windows flanked by louvered shutters, and to each side are single two-over-two sash windows hung with louvered shutters also. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and sloped soffit.

The north side is sheathed with German siding and a narrow single flue brick stove chimney protrudes through the gable end. Small four-pane windows light the attic. The south gable end is pierced by four-over-four sash windows on each floor on the west side of the interior end brick stove chimney. Four-pane windows light the attic.

Extending to the rear is a shorter two-story, two-bay rear wing that is sheathed with German siding and served by an interior end brick stack. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors.

The interior survives with a large percentage of its original fourth quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork finishes. A post Civil War era staircase is distinguished by a boldly turned newel post, turned balusters, and a scroll decorated stringer. Ogee molded baseboard trims the perimeter of the hall.

The four-panel door that opens into the north parlor has been divided into double leaf door. Chair rail and cornice moldings have been introduced into the parlor. A factory-made mantel with applied decoration is attached to the chimney breast.

The south parlor or living room retains a period mantel as well but the applied decoration has been removed. Ghosts revealing the outlines of the former decoration are clearly evident. The mantel pilasters have chamfered edges and the mantel shelf is

8. Significance

Survey No. T-963

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically identified as the Rosaline S. Benson house, this two-story, center hall/single-pile plan frame dwelling dates around 1878, shortly after her purchase of this North Morris Street lot.¹ The property remained in Benson family hands until 1918, when Rosaline S. Benson's children sold the house and lot to Joseph C. and Ida M. Robertson.² The Robertsons retained title until the mid 1930s.³

Rosaline Benson resided here with her husband, James H. Benson, and their three children, Morris, Helen, and Manie as well as a black servant, Elizabeth Banks and a boarder, Thomas B. Stewart.⁴ The reason that the property was purchased and owned by Rosaline instead of James was probably due to James' career on board ship and the complications that might arise if he were lost at sea. He is listed in the 1880 U. S. Census as a "sailor."

The Benson residence followed a plain but nevertheless substantial house form for the last quarter of the nineteenth century with its regular three-bay front and center hall/single-pile plan. The interior is fitted with woodwork that is common for the post Civil War era and combines machine or factory-made woodwork within a traditionally framed house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-963

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization P. O. Box 5 date 10/26/98

street & number telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of

T-963
Rosaline S. Benson House
311 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 685

693/858 Kathryn Bishop Cohee

to

9/21/1990 C. Clayton Hurt, Jr.
Ann M. Hurt

507/653 Virgil Bartlett Bishop

to

12/27/1976 Kathryn Susan Bishop Owen

420/510 Marjorie M. Jaeger
Harold H. Jaeger

to

6/13/1967 V. Bartlett Bishop
Kathryn C. Bishop

402/566 Gladys C. McCarter, widow

to

5/22/1965 Marjorie M. Jaeger

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Rosaline S. Benson House
311 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

364/143 Ralph A. McCarter, single

to

7/1/1960 James E. McCarter, Sr.
Gladys C. McCarter

238/430 Joseph C. Robertson and wife Ida M. Robertson

to

1/27/1937 Ralph A. McCarter

CBL 178/323 Helen B. Ashford and others (A. J. Ashford, Lenor Co., NC;
Maurice S. Benson and Katherine C. Benson, Jefferson Co., MS)

to

2/25/1918 Joseph C. Robertson
Ida M. Robertson
being the same lot of ground and premises which descended to the
the said Helen B. Ashford (nee Benson) and Maurice S. Benson,
as the children and heirs at law of Rosaline S. Benson

JPT 83/460 Thomas S. Stewart
Charles F. Stewart

to

4/1/1877 Rosaline S. Benson
\$363.00

[illegible]

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

DPA
not shown in A.M.
no appearance of light
in the ground

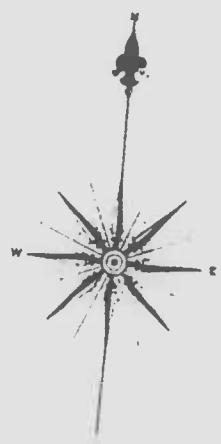
Third ~~Hayen~~ River

(OXFORD)

FRONT

APR. 1891
EAST
MD

RIVER VIEW
HO.



T-963
Rosaline S. Benson House
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland

Sanborn Insurance Map
1891

J CRUICKETT
COAL & WOOD
YARD

TILMAN

MORRIS

RY

ANK



T-963
Rosaline S. Benson House
311 North Morris Street
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



T-963

ROSALINE S. BENSON HOUSE

OXFORD, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 3



T. 963

ROSALINE S. BENSON HOUSE

OXFORD, TAYLOR COUNTY, MO.

EAST ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TOWNS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NE. 1/4. HISTORIC TOWN

2 OF 3



T-963

Rosaline S. Benson House

Oxford, Talbot County, MD

EAST ELEVATION, ENTRANCE

5/98, PAUL TOWERS, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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